

STORAGE RESERVOIR ON VERDE FAVORED AT HORSESHOE BEND

Board of Trade Discusses
Matter and Appoints
Committee of Land Own-
ers to Confer With Gov-
ernors of Water Users

FULL CO-OPERATION IN PROJECT URGED

First Steps to Secure Ad-
ditional Necessary Works
to Conserve the Water
Wealth of Verde Taken.
Horseshoe Site Available

As a result of a meeting of the board of directors of the board of trade, held yesterday afternoon, a movement will be undertaken at once to conserve the waters of the Verde river so that occurrences similar to those of this winter, when the river has three times been on a rampage, will not again be seen in this valley. In this action the board of directors decided to work in harmony with the Water Users' association in the full and most complete co-operation in order that the desired end may be achieved in the shortest possible time. The outcome of the meeting after the fullest discussion of the subject was the appointment of a committee of landowners of the valley, each a member of the board of trade and a water user, to meet with the board of governors of the Water Users' association at the next meeting on Monday, there to bring the subject still more prominently to the attention of the governing body of the great distributing system and to offer co-operation and assistance in securing the storage reservoir. The committee is composed of H. B. Wilkinson, chairman; C. B. Laird, Dr. J. C. Norton, George Alkire and Harry Welch.

The directors' room was well filled when President Dennett called the meeting to order. In addition to a goodly number of directors, there were a number of interested citizens present and a small delegation from Paradise Valley. The meeting got down to business in quick time. Dr. Dennett, after stating briefly the object of the meeting, stated that as there were visitors present, the meeting would be open for them to give an expression of their views. Dwight B. Heard spoke first. He referred to the recent floods in the Verde and said that they "have brought home very clearly the fact that a large waste of Verde river water has gone on recently and that this ought to be stored." Some time ago certain reports were made by engineers upon the feasibility of constructing a storage reservoir on the Verde, and the consensus of expert opinion is that a very satisfactory site can be secured at or near the mouth of the Horseshoe creek confluence with the Verde, located about thirty miles or so above Phoenix. Government ownership has reserved this for the use of the Salt river project. Mr. Heard said that the time has come for definite action for the construction of this much needed reservoir, but that whatever work was done must be done in the spirit of complete co-operation between the board of trade and the Water Users' association. He later suggested that steps be taken to make a complete survey of the proposition, as it had been found in the early work of the Salt river project that the information obtained by the complete survey first made was of untold benefit.

Mr. Heard was followed by Dr. Charles A. Vanderveer, secretary of the Water Users' association, who stated that his association would be delighted to have the aid and assistance of the board of trade in this important work. The matter had been much on the minds of the board of governors of the association and they had planned sooner or later to take it up definitely, but whether or not this would be done with funds raised on the project or with money from the government direct he was not in a position to state. However, the site had been reserved for the use of the farmers of this project and they will not consider any other use of the waters of the river.

Lincoln Fowler said that he viewed the matter very like a business man would look at his two accounts in

SAYS U. S. HAS ONLY MAN-KILLING PLANES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A fifteen million dollar aeroplane fleet is proposed in a bill by Representative L. Engle of Florida. He compared foreign air fleets with that of the United States, which he said is composed of "twelve obsolete, man-killing aeroplanes."

Says \$200,000,000 Was Stolen From The New Haven

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Charles by Senator Norris of Nebraska, that someone stole \$200,000,000 from the stockholders of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, precipitated a warm discussion in the senate. Several New England senators insisted that Norris was guilty of loose and unwarranted language. Norris retracted nothing.

ANOTHER TRAIN ROBBED

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—A masked robber boarded a Southern Pacific train from Santa Cruz at Burlingame tonight, robbed the conductor, brakeman and express messenger of their personal effects, wounded the messenger and escaped from the moving train as it neared San Francisco.

the bank. The Verde water was the checking account and the Roosevelt savings account laid away for a stressful time. Experience has taught the valley irrigators, he said, that 40 or 45 per cent. of the water used in the valley for irrigation comes from the Verde. He believed that with a reservoir on the Verde there would still be enough water originate below the dam, as below the dam on the Salt, which, taken with the continual use of the Verde flood waters, would be almost sufficient for the use of the entire valley here for the regular work, leaving the Roosevelt asset unimpaired. J. W. Walker said he believed the men of Phoenix should get behind the matter with a vim and push it to a conclusion. The prosperity of Phoenix depended upon the prosperity of the valley, and when that was increased or made more stable, the city was that much better off. He was heartily for the proposition.

Roy Goodrich gave a short history of the surveys that had been made on the Verde and the probable cost of the proposed dam. He thought that it could be constructed for \$500,000. A representative of the Paradise Valley settlers spoke in behalf of the assistance they needed and asked for a share in the water. Mr. Heard said that it might be after the project is completed that more than enough water is found for the use of this valley, in which case he had no doubt that some equitable means of distributing it would be arrived at which would be satisfactory to all concerned. Another delegate from Paradise Valley spoke, after which Director Ormsby moved that the meeting go into executive session.

It was during this session that the committee mentioned above was appointed and the full endorsement of the directors to the proposition was given.

The Condition of the River
The condition of the Verde yesterday showed some improvement over its former height. The Fossil creek gauge showed eleven feet as against the high water mark of 19 feet. The flow of the stream however, measured, showed a flow of 251,952 miners' inches, with a little better than one and one-half feet of water going over the dam. It is gradually falling but had not receded enough to disclose whether or not damage had been done to the diversion works in the Salt River below the Granite Reef dam.

CORRUPTION IN POLITICS FORM DAY'S EVIDENCE

United Mine Workers of
America Close Their Case
As Far As Trinidad Ses-
sion of Congressional
Committee Is Concerned

INFLUENCE OF OPERATORS SHOWN

Executive Order of Govern-
or Ammons Prohibiting
Importation of Strike-
breakers Into Coal Fields
Is Also Touched Upon

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The United Mine Workers of America today closed their case, as far as the Trinidad session of the congressional investigating committee is concerned. The closing of the case came at the end of a day in which testimony relative to alleged political corruption in Las Animas and Huerfano counties was presented. Charges of political and personal motives in the presentation of testimony were freely made and hotly denied. Testimony in support of the charges of the miners that the elections in the counties mentioned had been influenced by the operators was given by W. A. Garner, Dr. B. B. Beshear and J. C. Virgil.

The executive order of Gov. Ammons prohibiting the importation of strike-breakers into the coal fields and its subsequent withdrawal, were touched upon today. E. P. Costigan, cross-examining J. R. Copeland, who was formerly employed as immigration agent of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, sought to secure an admission that the withdrawal order was made to aid the immigration project in which Copeland and the Joplin, Mo., firm of Price & O'Neill were interested. The witness denied that knowledge of any such element had influenced the governor's action.

The committee advised that the governor appear in person to tell why he lifted the ban. The question of the alleged political activity of the large coal companies was brought up by Garner, who is a veteran of the civil war. He told the committee that he had known of men employed by the coal companies working for certain candidates.

There were repeated clashes of counsel over the admissibility of this evidence and after hearing arguments, the committee decided to bar all testimony as to the alleged interference of the coal companies in local and state elections but to admit evidence regarding their alleged activity in the selection of juries and prosecuting officers. A protest of Costigan resulted in the committee later deciding to permit the strikers to offer a limited amount of testimony as to the alleged political activities of the coal companies.

HANCOCK, Feb. 24.—Interruptions to mail service, one of the subjects of the congressional committee is authorized to investigate in relation to the copper miners' strike was inquired into today. The strikers presenting all the witnesses but one. Two strikers testified they were unable to get mail at the Mohawk postoffice on December 19, because the postmaster had closed the office and gone to Culmet to participate in the Citizens' Alliance parade. The clerk in the postoffice testified the office closed at noon on that date.

BODY IN SWIMMING POOL

Postal Employee Under Suspension,
Meets Accidental Death in
Salt Lake

SALT LAKE, Feb. 24.—The body of Orwell Williams, former superintendent of the money order division of the Salt Lake City postoffice and secretary of the local civil service commission, was found today in the swimming pool of a public bath house. Williams, who had been employed at the postoffice here for twenty-five years, and his assistant, Alma W. Harper, were suspended on January 5 for alleged irregularities in the handling of funds.

Harper committed suicide by shooting on January 6. Bruises on Williams' body led to the belief that his death was accidental. He had a wife and four children.

A. A. A. IS ATTACKED

Members are Characterized as High-
Browed Joy Riders

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The transcontinental highways proposed by the American Automobile association, were characterized today as the "lane over which the members of this high-browed, joy-riding association may strut," by Representative Shackelford of Missouri, attacking what he called "the editorial canning factory," maintained by the organization to promote the measures it favored. With the funds the association has collected from its 451 subordinate automobile clubs and the like, Mr. Shackelford said, a "notorious lobby" is maintained to fight the re-election of opponents of motor roads bills.

NOW IS THE TIME TO "STUDY" SOMETHING IN THE SOUTH.

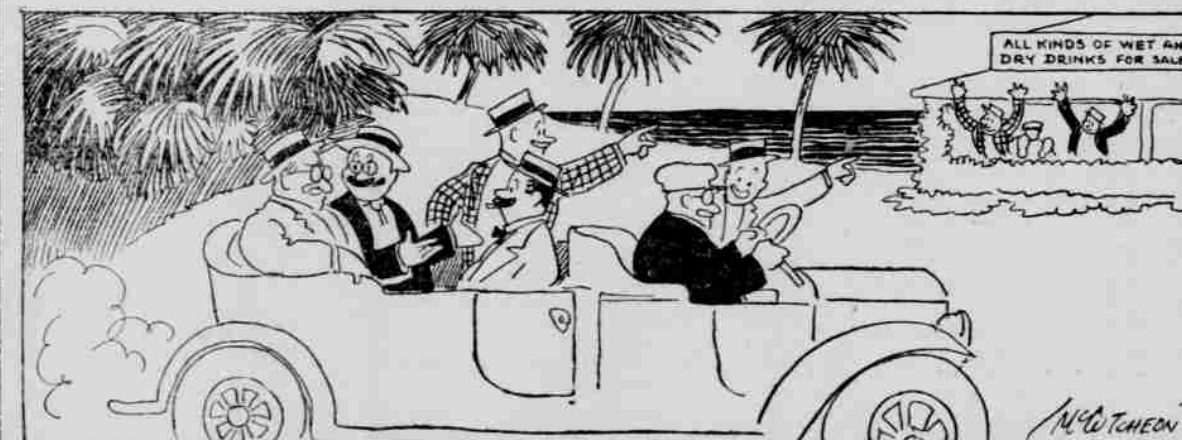
By John T. McCutcheon.



The drainage canal board has set the example by going to Havana and Panama to "study" the slides.



So perhaps the city council may go to Florida to "study" the tides and their relation to the new Chicago harbor.



And Peter Bartsen and his allies may make another junket to "study" hospitals.

DELEGATION OF ADVOCATES OF KENT BILL

Departure for Washington
Tonight of Arizona Cat-
tlemen to Appear Before
House Committee In Sup-
port of Leasing Measure

In the wires recently received by Dwight B. Heard from Congressman Kent of California and Congressman Hayden, the important news was given that a hearing before the Public Lands committee of the house on the merits of the Kent bill providing for the leasing under federal control, of the public grazing lands of the west, will commence on March 2nd. Mr. Heard has been asked, as first vice-president of the American National Live Stock association, to appear before the committee on behalf of the association and has also arranged with Chas. Mullen, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' association, for the appearance before the committee of a number of thoroughly representative stockmen of this state, including Mr. Mullen, also W. W. Cook, E. H. Crabb who has had large experience both on the public grazing lands and within the national forests, and Levi Young whose interests both in sheep and cattle put him in a position to give unusually valuable testimony. In correspondence which Mr. Heard has received from Washington it is evident that the administration is now looking with considerable favor on the Kent bill as public sentiment generally seems to recognize that this measure, while probably not perfect, will result in a great improvement over present conditions. Many prominent sheep men on the western ranges, who have previously bitterly opposed a leasing law, now frankly approve the principles of a leasing law but insist that they want to know the details of the administration of such a law, particularly as to the cost involved. The history of the formation of the policy embodied in the Kent bill, is an interesting one. While the need of some general policy of regulation had been discussed for many years, nothing concrete had developed until nine years ago when the Arizona Cattle Growers' association adopted resolution favoring a definite policy of federal control, and shortly thereafter the American National Live Stock association endorsed the policy and a large committee including representatives from nearly every western state was appointed.

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IS QUESTION FOR COURTS TO DECIDE

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 24.—Whether Cove, Ore., is in dry or wet territory will be a matter for the courts to decide, is the opinion expressed by Miss Fern Hobbs, private secretary to Governor West. She was sent to investigate conditions by the governor, who received a letter from the wife of an alleged habitual drunkard, saying the law was being violated by the authorities in allowing the saloons to operate.

Two Battleship Program Approved By Naval Affairs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Formal approval was given today to the administration's two-battleship program by the naval affairs committee, after the "small navy" men had made their final stand against it. The navy department's construction plans were changed so as to provide for six instead of eight destroyers and for additional submarines. As reported to the house, the bill carries an appropriation of \$140,200,000, exclusive of the amounts to be spent for armor and armament, and fixes the building program for the coming year as follows: Two first-class battleships of the highest speed and the largest possible radius of action, to rank among the world's dreadnoughts, \$7,800,000 each; one powerful 1,200-ton, 21-knot sea-going submarine, \$925,000 each; three coast defense submarines, 500 tons each, \$625,000 each, designed for use on the Pacific coast; four harbor defense submarines of a smaller type, \$375,000 each, intended for use on the gulf coast and in Panama.

SETTLERS WIN CONTEST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The legal contest between 450 heirs of Captain Juan Gonzales, who received a grant of land in New Mexico from the king of Spain in 1710, and the settlers of that portion of the land lying in the Rio Grande valley near Albuquerque, was settled by the supreme court in favor of the settlers.

NO MERCY FOR MILITANT

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Phyllis Brady, a militant suffragette, accused of arson, was sentenced to eighteen months at hard labor by a magistrate, despite the jury's recommendation for mercy on the ground that she was led astray by older militants.

VILLA AGREES BENTON'S BODY GIVEN UP SOON

Rebel Leader Says Remains
Will Be Disinterred and
Turned Over With Addi-
tional Statement Concern-
ing Britain's Death.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE WOUNDS

If Is Said This Will Deter-
mine Whether He Faced
Firing Squad Or Was
Shot Down With Villa's
Pistol

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Just what General Villa proposes to do about the request of the United States government that he deliver the body of Benton, a British subject executed by Villa at Juarez, was apparently open to question late tonight. Early in the evening Secretary Bryan had accepted a message from the constitutionalist chief to Consul Agent Carothers at Juarez as a promise that the body would be turned over to the American authorities as soon as the matter could be arranged. This message was translated to read that the body would be delivered "but not at this time." Just before midnight the state department officials made this public announcement:

"The American consul at Chihuahua reports that Villa declines to deliver Benton's body but will permit the widow or relatives to visit the cemetery with American representatives, and that for their benefit he will order the exhumation of the body which must then be re-interred in the grave from which it was removed."

General Villa is now in Chihuahua, and it is supposed the consul there has been in personal communication with him. The consul will be asked for further details of the reply tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Consul Agent George C. Carothers, at Juarez, telegraphed Secretary Bryan tonight that General Villa had notified him he will not surrender the body of William Benton at this time, but would turn it over to the United States at some later date, with an additional statement concerning Benton's death.

With a promise received tonight by Secretary Bryan from General Villa that the body of William B. Benton, a British subject, would soon be exhumed and turned over to the American officials for examination, the Washington government considered that the first important step had been accomplished in its investigation of the recent execution at Juarez which has focused the eyes of the world anew on the Mexican situation.

From the character of the wounds discovered on Benton's body the physicians will be able to say whether Benton was killed by a pistol shot, as his friends assert, or by the firing squad, as Villa asserts. It is admitted generally in official circles that such an examination will be of great value in either affirming or disproving the important point in the general explanation of the affair made by Villa.

The developments were many in the situation that has arisen out of the killing of Benton. Secretary Bryan asked the consular agent at Nogales to confer with General Carranza about the affair. The secretary talked with Acting Chairman Shively of the senate foreign relations committee and then with President Wilson. The incident was also discussed at the cabinet meeting.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, later called on Mr. Bryan and had arranged a visit of British Consul Percival to El Paso to supervise the exhumation.

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New Trial For Becker But None For Gunmen

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—The conviction of Charles W. Becker, former police lieutenant, of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was today reversed and the convictions of the four gunmen for the same crime affirmed by the court of appeals. Justice Goff, the court held, erred in many rulings and in Becker's trial, appeared to be prejudicial in his attitude toward the defendant. The reversal is based solely on these grounds.

say whether the weight of evidence against Becker was sufficient to warrant conviction. It was pointed out that the testimony against him was given by persons of a low class and as much of it was in doubt, he was therefore entitled to a fairer trial than he received. Judge Werner, in a dissenting opinion, said that in the main, the contentions of the state were amply proven to warrant a conviction. The date of the execution of the four gunmen, "Gyp The Blood," "Whitney Lewis," "Dago Frank" and "Lefty Louie" will be set within a few days.

Rebels Have Federal Gunboat Handed Them By Mutineers

NOGALES, Feb. 24.—The federal gunboat Tampico, with its full crew, voluntarily surrendered to the constitutionalists at Topolampam today, according to advices received here tonight from the south. The surrender of the Tampico affords the insurgents their first armed vessel. The gunboat was on the way south along the coast from Guaymas to Mazatlan, the two principal west coast points held by the federalists. Instead of continuing south, the Tam-

pico steamed into Topolampam harbor, which has been held by the constitutionalists for several months. No bloodshed accompanied the mutiny of the sailors. It is said the boat will be used immediately in a concentrated attack upon some of the west coast points. The Huerta government has two other gunboats on the Pacific and Gulf of California coast. The Tampico arrived with a full crew, ample ammunition for the guns and with a gasoline launch in tow.